

FREE DIGITAL
SAMPLE FOR
the week of
July 30, 2017

DAILY
UNIVERSAL
PRAYER
AND COMMENTARY

CELEBRATING **50** YEARS IN PRINT





SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

(Lec. 109)

IN ORDINARY TIME

- 1) 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
- 2) Romans 8:28-30
- 3) Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

FOCUS: Every good thing that happens to us provides a glimpse into the joy that will be ours in heaven.

When good things happen to us, we get an idea of what the kingdom of heaven is like: it is always time for celebration. Happily, we do not have to wait until we die to join the celebration. For by placing our faith in Jesus and living according to his teachings, we can experience the blessings of the kingdom of God amidst our lives on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how King Solomon asks the Lord to grant him an understanding heart so he can lead his people well. In the second reading, we hear that all things work for good for those who love God. In the Gospel, Jesus uses parables to give his followers an idea of the joy that is theirs in the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, let us offer our prayers to God, trusting him to provide for our needs.

- 1) That Church leaders may continue to listen closely to the voice of the Holy Spirit as they guide and lead the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may turn to the Lord for guidance as they strive to foster peace and justice over all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ may find comfort from the prayers and support of their Christian brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That families in this faith community may grow in grace and become beacons of the love of Christ to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may know eternal joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, hear our prayers that we humbly offer to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.





MONDAY, JULY 31, 2017

(Lec. 401)

- 1) Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
- 2) Matthew 13:31-35

MONDAY OF

17TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM Saint Ignatius of Loyala, Priest)

FOCUS: The seeds of faith are planted in our hearts, and it is up to us to nurture those seeds.

Today's Gospel reminds us that God's kingdom grows, and Jesus says that the kingdom may start seemingly small in the seeds of faith planted in our hearts. As we come to grow in our love for God, his love comes to reign more and more in our hearts and moves us to share his gift of love with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the book of Exodus recounts the grave sin of the Israelites. Left to their own devices, they cast and worship the golden calf. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the crowds of people two parables about the kingdom of heaven: that of the mustard seed and the yeast mixed in the wheat flour.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With joyful hearts, we now turn to God and offer him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all who serve the Church, may their ministries continue to be a sign of God's love for all people, and help to build the kingdom of heaven on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and government leaders, may they be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they work to craft laws and policies that lift up those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the dying, that the promise of sharing in the Resurrection may bring them strength and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we seek to build up the kingdom of God on earth and be Christ's presence in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to share in eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.





TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017

(Lec. 402)

- 1) Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28
- 2) Matthew 13:36-43

TUESDAY OF

17TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem. Saint Alphonsus Liguori,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: We must strive to live our faith each day so Jesus might judge us worthy of eternal life in heaven.

Today's Gospel gives the reminder that at a time unknown to us, each of us will stand before the Lord Jesus to give an account of our lives. In order that we might be judged worthy of entering into eternal life in heaven, it is important that we strive to live our faith every day and seize every opportunity to do good for a brother or sister in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how Moses would go out to the meeting tent so he could speak with the Lord face to face. In the Gospel, we hear an explanation of the parable of the wheat and the weeds. Jesus says that at the final judgment, *the righteous will shine like the sun*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Believing that God the Father loves us beyond measure, let us join in offering him our prayers.

- 1) That all bishops may continue to be blessed in their apostolic mission of shepherding the faithful and bringing others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national leaders may work to set aside those things which divide, and focus their energies on finding common ground in order to build a more peaceful world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those experiencing the ravages and upheaval of natural disasters may receive the assistance they need, and find consolation and strength in God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our diocese who have been called to the priesthood, religious life or lay ecclesial ministry may respond with courage and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may join all the angels and saints in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and strengthen us with the grace needed to serve you faithfully. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.





WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017

(Lec. 403)

- 1) Exodus 34:29-35
- 2) Matthew 13:44-46

WEDNESDAY OF

17TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Obl. Mem. Saint Eusebius of Vercelli,
Bishop; Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Priest)

FOCUS: We are called to be radiant in our faith, giving our lives to God, so we may be judged worthy of eternal life.

Moses' face becomes radiant when he speaks with the Lord. So should we be fervent and radiant in our prayer lives. In the Gospel parables, we are challenged to give our lives totally to God. We are called to make God's kingdom the true treasure of our lives — that we might be judged worthy of eternal life. Let us be radiant, led by the light of our Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai carrying the Ten Commandments, with his face radiant from having conversed with God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells two parables which emphasize the great joy people come to experience when they make God's kingdom the true treasure of their lives.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust, let us join in offering our prayers to the Father for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be radiant in prayer and service so God's kingdom of justice and peace may be built up more fully on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in public office may grow in their resolve to enact just laws that protect the fundamental rights of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have become disconnected from the life of the Church may, through our prayers and outreach, come back to the active practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us gathered here may heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit working within us to more effectively witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may have perpetual peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask you to hear these prayers and those within our hearts. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.





THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

(Lec. 404)

- 1) Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38
- 2) Matthew 13:47-53

THURSDAY

17TH WEEK

-IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Glimpses of God's glory can be seen in creation all around us if we view it with the eyes of faith.

God's closeness to the people of Israel in their journey to the Promised Land is seen in simple things such as a tent, an ark, a cloud and fire. By opening our eyes to God's closeness to us in our world, we can be drawn nearer to him in our hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The passage from Exodus shows how God remained close to his people while they wandered through the desert to the Promised Land. In the Gospel, Jesus uses everyday images such as fishermen separating good fish from bad fish to reveal to us what will happen at the end of the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing in our hearts that God hears and answers our prayers according to his will, let us stand humbly before him with our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, that the Holy Spirit may inspire all the faithful to be more vibrant witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, that Christ might open their eyes to the needs of the most vulnerable among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are unemployed, may they find strength in their faith, and be blessed to find employment which provides for their needs and for the needs of those who depend on them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we open our hearts fully to the Holy Spirit so we may continue to grow in faith and be better equipped to share it with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and help us to grow in gratitude for all your blessings. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.





FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2017

(Lec. 405)

1) Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37

2) Matthew 13:54-58

FRIDAY OF

17TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM Saint John Vianney, Priest)

FOCUS: Let us strive to recognize the many ways Jesus works in our lives.

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus teaching the people of his hometown in the synagogue on the Sabbath, but they do not believe. Similarly, each of us can be blinded by our own preconceived notions of how we think Jesus is supposed to work. Let us be open to recognizing the many ways Jesus is working, or wishes to work, in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Leviticus tells of the Lord speaking to Moses and instructing him as to which days are to be designated as holy and celebrated with a sacred assembly. In our Gospel, Jesus is rejected by those in his hometown, and he is unable to work miracles there because of their lack of faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As God's beloved sons and daughters, let us offer our prayers to him for our needs and the needs of others.

- 1) That all members of the Church may serve as Jesus' messengers to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may bless world leaders with the wisdom to discern good from evil, and the strength to make just decisions for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are discouraged and heavily burdened may turn to God and feel his loving presence in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us gathered here may strive to be more attentive and responsive to the voice which speaks to us through sacred Scripture and in the silence of our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may join the angels and saints in giving glory to God in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear and answer these prayers we offer to you in the name of your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.





SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017

(Lec. 406)

- 1) Leviticus 25:1, 8-17
- 2) Matthew 14:1-12

SATURDAY OF

17TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem. The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major; Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Faith is a critical component in our everyday lives.

From ancient times, we are called to treat each other fairly and with compassion, and the martyrdom of John the Baptist reminds us of the price we must sometimes pay on our spiritual journey. Let us strive to be faithful to the Gospel in the face of opposition or weakness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from the Book of Leviticus, which provides both ritual and life guidelines for the people of ancient Israel, focuses on the importance of treating each other fairly and with compassion. In the Gospel, King Herod folded under the pressure of saving face and ordered John the Baptist to be beheaded, even though he knew it was wrong.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we come before you with humble hearts, and ask our petitions be heard and answered according to your mercy and will.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, that she be guided by the love of God in Christ to serve all in need with the compassion and mercy shown to us in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work toward providing universal prosperity and dignity for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the dying and for those who care for them, that God will hold each close to his heart, and that they will be comforted by the hope of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and youth ministers in our parish, may they be guided by wisdom and engage in insightful teaching as they pass along the faith to our young people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, especially those dear to us, may they enjoy the rewards of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we thank you for all good gifts, especially for the grace and mercy you give us each day. We ask these petitions be granted according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

